

House Republican Press Release

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REP. URBAN: STATE EXPECTED TO ALLOCATE \$2 MILLION FOR LOANS TO EASTERN CONNECTICUT BUSINESSES



FUNDING CAN ASSIST WOMEN, MINORITIES IN ESTABLISHING SMALL BUSINESSES

State Rep. Diana Urban, R-North Stonington, today said that the State Bond Commission has allocated \$2 million to establish a loan fund to assist women and minorities establish businesses in Eastern

Connecticut. The Bond Commission approved the funding during its monthly meeting this morning in Hartford.

These funds will provide a grant-in-aid to the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) to establish the Eastern Connecticut Segmented Loan Pool. This pilot program will then make loan funds available to women and minority owned businesses and other eligible businesses seeking start-up high risk loans in Targeted and Public Investment Communities.

“We are all aware of the negative impacts of outsourcing and offshoring on our local economies,” said Rep. Urban. “These funds will be used to help our entrepreneurs start small businesses and grow the economic web. This is a great boost to eastern Connecticut and I thank Governor Rell for her commitment to our small businesses.”

“This is a great opportunity for small business in eastern Connecticut,” said Senator Cathy Cook, R-Mystic. “The state should do all it can to help our business community.”

In 2003, Rep. Urban served as a primary sponsor of Public Act 03-93, which allowed the CEDF to provide financing to low- and moderate-income people statewide for establishing, maintaining, and expanding businesses. CEDF is a nonprofit organization created to help economically distressed neighborhoods develop businesses and create jobs. Under this legislation, people qualify for financial assistance if they earn no more than the median income for the state as determined by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.